

# Coastal Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Town of Marshfield, Massachusetts

DPW Conference Room — Marshfield Town Hall  
(*relocated to Hearing Room 3 with signage posted*)  
2014 May 08

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## COMMITTEE PRESENT:

- Elizabeth Mulroy (Chair)
- Ben Cowie-Haskell (Vice Chair)
- Sean Robinson (Clerk)

## COMMITTEE NOT PRESENT:

- Thomas Fleming

## ALSO PRESENT (in audience):

- George Cicchetti (Energy Committee)
- Tom Reynolds (Superintendent of Public Works)
- Rod Procaccino (Town Engineer)
- Greg Robbins (GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc., engineering consultant)

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### 1. Call to order

Ms. Mulroy called the meeting to order at 2:33 pm.

### 2. Roles of DPW and CAC in Addressing Sea Level Rise: Conversation with Tom Reynolds and Rod Procaccino

The Committee requested this meeting with Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Procaccino to learn about Department of Public Works (DPW) projects which are relevant to coastal adaptation. In advance of the meeting, the Committee was asked to transmit a set of questions to help prepare for the meeting. This list was assembled by the Committee at its May 1 meeting and transmitted as a memorandum to Mr. Reynolds and Procaccino on May 5. This memorandum is attached on page [4](#) below.

Along with Mr. Robbins, Mr. Procaccino and Mr. Reynolds led an open discussion addressing the Committee's questions and related issues. A selected — but not exhaustive — list of points from the conversation is as follows:

- DPW's Seawall Master Plan Inventory report was last updated 2006. It is due for an update.
- Each year, DPW (like all other Town departments) submits annual capital requests along with a 5 year capital plan to the Capital Budget Committee (CBC). The Inventory Plan helps guide the capital plan.
- DPW is aware of the problems with the seawalls, but has "many balls to juggle" and budget constraints on a variety of issues, not just seawalls.
- Public bid numbers on seawalls range from \$3k-\$4k per linear foot.
- There are about 2200 feet of seawall from Old Beach to Third Road which are in need of replacement.
- In about 1956, there was some beach nourishment done by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) in the Hewitt's Point area.
- The Master Plan and Board of Public Works (BPW) help determine DPW's priorities, with input from the Board of Selectmen (BOS) and other people.
- The DPW could use the Committee to look at sea level rise (SLR), because DPW isn't really working on it.
- How does DPW implement its coastal structures plan? They could use the Committee's advice.
- FEMA and ACE don't necessary include SLR in their models.
- The Committee could champion projects to BOS in order to get BOS, BPW, and other advisors on the same page for funding purposes.
- The capital process starts with being asked in October to submit budget plans. CBC starts meeting after that.
- DPW builds and maintains things. BPW makes the policy for DPW. SLR affects much more than built structures in the big picture of the Town.
- DPW can and has been maintaining sea walls. Would the Committee recommend they do something different in the future?
- The Massachusetts permitting process for beach nourishment is especially difficult to deal with compared to other states.
- Different state and federal agencies make the permitting process difficult because they have sometimes-conflicting missions.
- The construction arm and permitting arm of ACE are separate bodies.

- It could be possible to get perhaps 10,000 yards per year from dredging the Green Harbor channel for beach nourishment, if only the process to do so could be established.
- DPW would like people to know that SLR and FEMA/FIRM maps are not connected.
- If Marshfield were to commit to maintaining the Old Mouth (*i.e.* Rexhame Beach, primarily), say with a sacrificial dune, would FEMA commit to taking the assumption of a barrier failure at the Old Mouth off of the FIRM maps? We don't know.
- NAVD88 is one important land-based datum to understand (for FEMA), used for land work. Mean low water is about 5.1 feet below that, which is used for water engineering, but the difference varies by up to several feet. NGVD29 is an older standard for land datum.

No motions or votes on this agenda item.

3. Other Business

No discussion on this item.

4. Adjourn

Mr. Robinson moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Cowie-Haskell seconded the motion. No further discussion. The Committee voted 3–0 in favor. The meeting adjourned at 5:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Robinson  
Coastal Advisory Committee Clerk

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Tom Reynolds and Rod Proccacino**  
**Department of Public Works**

**FROM: Coastal Advisory Committee**

**DATE: May 5, 2014**

**RE: Suggested questions for May 8 meeting**

Thank you for your willingness to help our Committee understand the issues your department faces as we all work together to better understand the impacts of sea level rise. We are an all-volunteer, new committee that reports directly to the Board of Selectmen. Per your request, here are a few questions for consideration that might help guide our discussion on May 8 at 2:30 pm.

1. What government agencies come into play on coastal projects? What is the approval process for coastal projects?
2. What criteria are used in deciding which grants to apply for and which ones not?
3. What would Tom (from his perspective as a member of the CAC selection committee) like the Committee to help DPW with? What does DPW not need us to help with?
4. What are the most important things you think the general public needs to know now about sea level rise?
5. FEMA modeling shows that the Dyke Road dike and Rexhame Beach are “weak links” in our coastal protection. Is this true in your opinion, and if so, what can be done about them?
6. What are the top 5 projects you would like to see implemented to address sea level rise going forward?
7. What federal/state/local government agencies and non-governmental organizations are needed to effectively handle sea level rise in Marshfield?

Please get in touch with me ([emulroy@ssw.umaryland.edu](mailto:emulroy@ssw.umaryland.edu)) if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday.